A New Facsimile Reprint from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

GEORGE SHAW'S "GENERAL ZOOLOGY"

THE FIRST WORLD SUMMARY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN ENGLISH

With a Systematic Review of Shaw's Nomenclature by Hobart M. Smith and Patrick David

GEORGE SHAW (1751–1813), an English naturalist who became Keeper of Zoology at the British Museum, is one of the most familiar names in herpetology. His volume on amphibians and reptiles in his series "General Zoology" comprises the first world review of herpetology in English. Shaw's book, published in 1802, covered 432 species which represent a large fraction of the species known at the time. Of these, Shaw described 109 as new and two dozen of his taxa survive, including some of the most familiar species in the world: *Ambystoma maculatum, Rana catesbeiana, Caecilia gracilis, Geochelone radiata, Ctenosaura acanthura, Python regius,* and *Bitis nasicornis*. The text includes scientific and common names, extensive references to previous literature, natural history, and useful historical information. The 141 plates (see the samples at the bottom of this page) are typical of the era: excellent likenesses at their best, but sometimes amusing, fanciful, or even purloined from other works. Taken together, the text and plates represent an authoritative and classic survey at the start of the century during which herpetology became a science.

Hobart M. Smith (Boulder) and Patrick David (Paris) provide an extensive introduction in which Shaw's species are correlated with modern taxa. Many of Shaw's names have not been previously synonymized. They also provide a comprehensive index to Shaw's names.

Specifications: *about 975 pages, 141 plates, format 6 × 9 inches (15 × 23 cm), clothbound, ISBN 0–916984–48–6. To be published November 1999.*

■ *G. SHAW: GENERAL ZOOLOGY: HERPETOLOGY* • **Pre-publication price to SSAR members US$60 • Institutions and non-members US$75**
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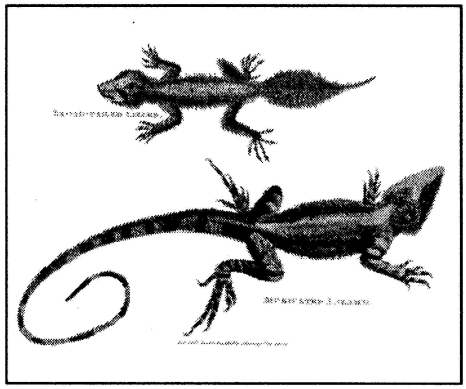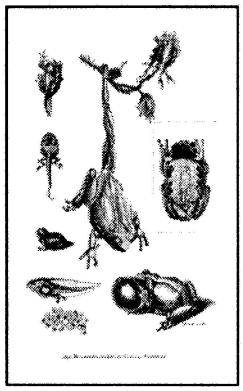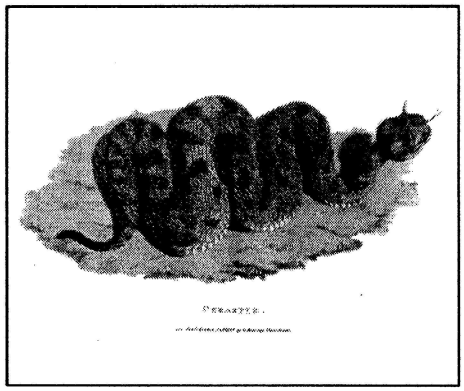
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